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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 11 MARCH 25, 2013

INSIDE

UK families organize to keep fighting cop killings

— PAGE 2

Readers: Join effort to win more subscribers

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Each successive week in an international campaign to win 1,950 subscribers to the *Militant* has been better than the previous. With 328 subscriptions sold over the last seven days, last week was no exception.

EXPANDING READERSHIP DOOR TO DOOR

As the readership has expanded, so too have the number of readers taking part in the international subscription campaign.

"Going door to door with the *Militant* is a passion for me. It is a paper that tells about the struggles and strikes of workers, a paper that points out what working people can have when we unite," said Juan Torres, from San Bruno, about 12 miles south

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Winter 'Militant' subscription campaign

Feb. 9 - March 18 (week 4)

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	**85**	**75**	**88%**
Lincoln	**15**	**13**	**87%**
Los Angeles	120	93	78%
San Francisco	120	92	77%
Twin Cities	100	72	72%
New York	300	210	70%
Washington	65	45	69%
Des Moines	100	68	68%
Miami	60	39	65%
Houston	100	60	60%
Omaha	50	30	60%
Chicago	130	75	58%
Seattle	115	66	57%
Atlanta	115	64	56%
Boston	65	31	48%
Total U.S.	1540	1033	67%
PRISONERS	**15**	**15**	**100%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**100**	**82**	**82%**
Manchester*	**60**	**54**	**90%**
UK Total	**160**	**136**	**85%**
NEW ZEALAND	60	27	45%
CANADA	**70**	**59**	**84%**
AUSTRALIA	55	35	64%
Total	1900	1305	67%
Should be	**1950**	**1560**	**80%**

* raised goal

1,950 — Should be — 1305

Rally backs ILWU fight against lockout in Wash.

United Grain presses 'flexible' work rules

Militant/Mary Martin

March 8 rally for locked-out longshore workers outside United Grain office, Vancouver, Wash.

BY EDWIN FRUIT

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Several hundred longshore workers and their supporters gathered in Esther Short Park here March 8 to demand that United Grain Corp. end its lockout and ratify a contract with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

ILWU Local 4 has been picketing around the clock in front of United Grain's terminal since Feb. 27, when the company locked out union workers on the pretext of alleged equipment sabotage.

The local has some 200 members, 44 of whom are locked-out employees of United Grain, according to ILWU spokesperson Jennifer Sargent.

"On behalf of the 450,000 members of the AFL-CIO in Washington state, I call for an end to this illegal lockout," said Jeff Johnson, president of the state federation.

"We won't cross any picket lines

Continued on page 5

US gov't presses stiffer sanctions, military threats against N Korea

BY DOUG NELSON

At Washington's prodding, the U.N. Security Council voted March 7 to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea, as the U.S. military conducts large-scale exercises with South Korean forces on the peninsula and in its skies and waters. Using the pretext of Pyongyang's nuclear and missile technology, the U.S. rulers are piling these measures on top of more than six decades of aggression against Korean sovereignty, aimed at quarantining the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and inflicting hardship on the Korean people.

LIFT THE SANCTIONS! KOREA IS ONE

—editorial, p. 7

Among other things, the latest sanctions, adopted 15-0, slap new restrictions on the DPRK's financial

Continued on page 7

US: Long-term unemployment, declining wages mark 'recovery'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Corporate profits have risen and the stock market has reached new heights nearly four years into the "recovery" from the last recession. Meanwhile, long-term unemployment remains higher than at any time since the 1930s, and total wages remain lower than they were five years earlier for the first time since figures were kept after World War II.

In February the Department of Labor reported a drop in the unemployment rate from 7.9 to 7.7 percent with employers adding 236,000 jobs. But a closer look at these figures reveals a much different picture.

Because of the deliberately mis-

Continued on page 7

NY forum: The Cuban Revolution transformed society top to bottom

Militant/Warren Simons

Gail Walker of IFCO/Pastors for Peace speaks at New York forum on *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. Book shows how Cuban Revolution "raised women's sense of dignity and self-confidence," she said. Also on panel, from left, chair Martín Koppel; Maritzel González, Federation of Cuban Women; Mary-Alice Waters, book's editor.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

NEW YORK—"This is the third meeting in two weeks to present these books: first in Havana, then in Santiago de Cuba, and now here in New York," said Martín Koppel in welcoming nearly 100 participants to a special Militant Labor Forum on March 10.

MEETINGS IN CUBA DISCUSS WOMEN AND REVOLUTION

—pages 8-10

The event, held at Riverside Church

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UK families organize to keep fighting cop killings

BY DAG TIRSÉN AND ANDRÉS MENDOZA

MANCHESTER, England, March 3—"We are not giving up our fight for justice for Anthony Grainger," said Wesley Ahmed, his cousin, to a crowd of 70 people at Piccadilly Gardens park here today. The vigil was called to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Grainger's killing by police.

Grainger was sitting unarmed in a parked car in Culcheth, Warrington, when he was shot and killed by a specialist armed officer. Sixteen armed cops and other officers were at the scene.

"When the police told Marina, Anthony's mother, about the killing of her son they laughed at her grief," Ahmed said. Two others who were with Grainger in the car were arrested, as well as another the following day, all accused of planning a robbery.

"The Justice for Grainger campaign held a protest outside every day of the trial at Manchester Crown Court. That is why the court had to acquit them of charges of conspiracy to commit robbery," Ahmed said.

Among other speakers were Carole Duggan, aunt of Mark Duggan, who was shot by London police in Tottenham in August 2011. The killing sparked protests and riots throughout the country.

Instead of investigating the killing of Mark Duggan and prosecuting the officer responsible, Carole Duggan said, authorities staged a trial to convict another man, Kevin Hutchinson-Foster, of providing her nephew with a gun prior to the police shooting.

"There is a pattern in all these cases—your loved one is seen as aggressive, your loved one is seen as a drug taker, an armed robber—anything to demonize their character," Janet Alder told rally participants. Her brother, Christopher Alder, was left to choke to death while lying on the floor in handcuffs in a police station in 1998.

Ann Michael spoke about how cops stormed into the bedroom of her son, Jacob Michael, 25, on Aug. 22, 2011. They pepper sprayed him, dragged him out, beat him mercilessly with batons, and left him to die on the floor of the police station. She had never publicly talked about this before, she told the crowd, but decided to join the protest after hearing Ahmed speak up about Grainger's killing at the coroner's inquest of Jacob Michael's death.

More than 1,430 people have died either in police custody or following contact with the police in England and Wales between 1990 and 2011, according to the *Guardian*.

Militant/Dag Tirsén

From left, Carole Duggan, Ann Michael, Miranda Michael and Wesley Ahmed, all of whom have had family members killed by cops, speak at Manchester, England, protest March 3.

"What the police are carrying out is class 'justice' for the propertied rulers. Their cops act as judge, jury and executioner," said Pete Clifford of the Communist League. "This goes hand in hand with attacks against workers' living standards and rights by the employers and their government. That's why these fights against police brutality are getting a broader hearing among working people today."

At the end of the event, Ahmed announced further activities in the Justice for Grainger campaign.

U.S. gov't bars Cuban diplomats' visits to René González

BY SETH GALINSKY

"Since September 2012, the Department of State has denied all requests by the Cuban Interests Section in Washington to let Cuban diplomatic officials visit René," Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a Feb. 27 statement, referring to René González, one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned on trumped-up charges in the U.S. since 1998.

Although González was paroled in October 2011, his request to return to live in Cuba has been denied on the pretext of his dual citizenship. An unnamed U.S. official cited the same reason for González's denial of consular visits, reported Spanish news agency EFE Feb. 28.

The denial is consistent with the U.S. government's frame-up, designed to punish Cuban working people for continuing to defend their sovereignty and socialist revolution since the 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista.

"These visits had been permanently authorized during the 13 years in which he was imprisoned and during the first few months of his supervised release upon finishing his prison term," the statement said.

Washington's action violates the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, says the Cuban statement.

González's wife, Olga Salanueva, remains barred from traveling to the U.S. to visit him, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Gerardo Hernández, who is serving two life terms plus 15 years.

The new measures make González's supervised release more like being in

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THE MILITANT

Support the Socialist Workers candidates!

Socialist Workers Party candidates represent a labor, working-class alternative in elections, all the more needed as the propertied rulers have no other solution to the capitalist crisis than to squeeze working people harder and harder.

Follow the campaigns in the pages of the 'Militant.'

Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

Norton Sandler, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, campaigns at protest Nov. 23.

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Write to Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio and Fernando

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➢ ***Address envelope to "Rubén Campa"***

Antonio Guerrero
Reg. #58741-004, Apache A,
FCI Marianna P.O. Box 7007,
Marianna, FL 32447-7007

Gerardo Hernández
Reg. #58739-004, U.S.P Victorville,
P.O. Box 3900, Adelanto, CA 92301

Ramón Labañino
Reg. #58734-004,
FCI Ashland,
P.O. Box 6001, Ashland, KY 41105
➢ ***Address envelope to "Luis Medina"***

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Join subscription effort

Continued from front page

of San Francisco.

Torres, who works as a cashier at McDonald's, subscribed when *Militant* supporters knocked on his door last December. Since then, he has joined several times going door to door in working-class neighborhoods in the Bay Area.

"It's a moral issue. The morals of the people who run this system come from money. It's all about profit," said Mark Wilson, 30, when *Militant* supporters knocked on his door in Peckham, a working-class area of South London.

Wilson was a train cleaner until over a year ago when the rail company he worked for ended permanent contracts. "I had the option of an agency contract, but the wage was lower and they couldn't guarantee a 40-hour week." He bought a single copy of the socialist newsweekly and asked for another discussion.

From Auckland, New Zealand, Patrick Brown writes that *Militant* supporters there "have been getting into deeper discussions that register the widening impact of unemployment and the squeeze on wages."

"I'm looking everywhere for work—cleaning, anything—but had little luck. Just some work picking strawberries," said Awa Sall when Brown knocked on her door in the district of Papatoetoe in South Auckland, March 7. Sall is originally from Mauritania, in West Africa.

Her husband, Ibrahima Sall, bought a subscription after seeing the recent articles on the war in Mali and coverage of the meeting at the Havana book fair on *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own*. "Sankara's my man," he said when seeing books of speeches by Thomas Sankara that are on special with a subscription. (See ad below.)

Alycia Williams, who works for the Kent School District in Washington, bought a subscription and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, wrote John Naubert from Seattle.

"I want to learn more about Malcolm's ideas," Williams said. "We have to do something about the system—like how it's designed for the low income to be maintained in low income."

"I was on a long distance call, but you said the magic word—socialist," said Miriam Canales when she opened her door to *Militant* supporters in the Dyckman Houses apartment complex in Upper Manhattan, March 9.

Canales is a former teacher originally from Cuba. "You know why they made a socialist revolution there? Because something was not right," she said.

Her husband, Ricardo Thoms, also born in Cuba, joined the discussion. He has worked for Con Edison for 27 years and was part of the fight by more than 8,000 members of Utility Workers Union Local 1-2 against a four-week lockout by the utility giant last summer.

Canales and Thoms bought a *Militant* subscription and the books *Cuba and Angola* and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. The next day, they attended a special Militant Labor Forum on two other books on the Cuban Revolution. (See article on front page.)

In Washington, D.C., *Militant* supporters hit the streets March 10, campaigning for Paul Pederson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for D.C. City Council, in the Anacostia neighborhood.

Martin Stoute, a painter who does home improvement work and is originally from Dominica, was glad the SWP campaign defends the Cuban Revolution.

Militant/Eric Simpson

From left, *Militant* readers Juan Torres and Joel Britton sell subscription to Francisco Lazaro in San Mateo, Calif., March 7. Lazaro also bought *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

"When you see the situation in the Caribbean, the poverty, what you are saying is really important," he told Pederson as he signed for a subscription.

"I come from a working-class family. I have worked in a factory and never dropped out from workers' cause since then," Julie Papineau said when she bought a subscription in the Montreal working-class neighborhood of Verdun March 9. Papineau is a municipal worker, member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 301.

Join the effort to expand the readership of the paper among working people. Call *Militant* distributors in your area. (See directory on page 6.) Or order a bundle at themilitant@mac.com or (212) 244-4899.

René González denied visits

Continued from page 2

prison "with the aim of continuing to punish him," said the Cuban statement.

Josefina Vidal, director for U.S. Affairs at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, denied State Department claims that its refusal to allow consular visits is similar to restrictions imposed on U.S. government personnel in Cuba.

"The U.S. Interests Section in Havana invariably receives permission to travel outside the capital to visit prisoners from the United States and Cubans naturalized in the U.S. who are carrying out their sentences anywhere in Cuba," Vidal said in a statement, pointing to recent trips by U.S. officials in five provinces of Cuba. "All travel requests for [U.S.] consular visits have been authorized without exception."

Meanwhile, Ramón Labañino, another one of the five, has been transferred to a low-security prison in Ashland, Ky. Labañino, who is serving a 30-year sentence, had been held in a medium security prison in Jesup, Ga.

The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five has called a week of actions for the framed-up revolutionaries May 30-June 5 in Washington, D.C. These will include public meetings and a June 1 demonstration in front of the White House. For more information see http://www.thecuban5.org.

Who are the Cuban 5?

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups staging attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution from southern Florida.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, including conspiracy "to gather and transmit national defense information" and, in the case of Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder.

All but René González are still in prison.

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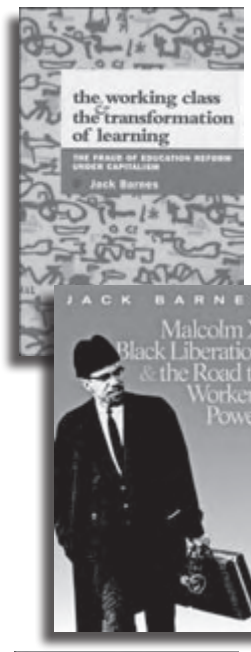

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by Thomas Sankara
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Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
Publication offer: $9 till March 31
$6 with subscription (usually $12)

Women in Cuba:
The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
$10 with subscription (usually $20)

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Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the Militant
$3 with subscription (usually $5)

Women and Revolution
The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
Publication offer: $5 till March 31
$3 with subscription (usually $7)

See distributors on page 6

Montreal unionists protest cuts in jobless compensation

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL—Several thousand people marched in the snow here Feb. 23 against proposed federal legislation designed to cut back on unemployment compensation.

The Construction division of the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) and the Quebec Council of Construction Trades organized simultaneous protests that mobilized several thousand more in eight other regions of Quebec. Actions also took place in Ottawa, Ontario, in front of Canada's parliament and in Tracadie, New Brunswick.

Under Bill C-38, unemployed workers are divided into three categories based on how often they have received jobless insurance over a five-year period, making seasonal workers a primary target. Some workers would be required to accept jobs at 80 percent of their previous wages immediately, and at 70 percent after seven weeks. Workers would also be required to look for work within a radius of 100 kilometers (62 miles).

"They want to make us work for less money, and then penalize us if we go back to our jobs," said Mariette Boucher, a school bus driver and member of Teamsters Local 106.

A week before the demonstration Bernard Drainville, a member of the Quebec government, had revealed that some 50 inspectors would be sent to the homes of 1,200 workers the government suspects of "fraudulently" receiving benefits. "Hunting season on the unemployed is open" read one placard at the Montreal demonstration.

Most participants in the action were construction workers. Others included members of the Canadian Auto Workers and United Food and Commercial Workers, as well as school bus drivers, crossing guards and film industry workers.

"It's going to take demonstrations in all the cities, and not just here, but across Canada," Jean William, a member of Heavy Equipment Workers Union Local 791, told the *Militant*.

Militant/John Steele

Thousands protest in Montreal Feb. 23 against cuts in unemployment compensation. Actions took place across Quebec, in front of parliament in Ottawa and in Tracadie, New Brunswick.

Supreme Court okays phone, Internet spying

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In a Feb. 26 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court backed the government's warrantless wiretapping of international communications sanctioned under legislation passed in 2008.

The court rejected a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International and other groups and individuals charging the tapping of international telephone and email communications violates the First and Fourth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The majority of Supreme Court justices in the 5-4 decision argued plaintiffs failed to show they had directly been harmed by the law and therefore had no basis for suing.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the George W. Bush administration secretly instructed the National Security Agency to conduct a program of spying on international communications, circumventing the usual judicial rubber-stamping procedures.

In 2005, the *New York Times* revealed aspects of the warrantless spying, which Congress "legitimatized," with the overwhelming bipartisan passage of the FISA Amendments Act in July 2008.

The 2008 law was appended to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, to "provide the intelligence community with additional authority to meet the challenges of modern technology and international terrorism," the Feb. 26 ruling says.

FISA was adopted in 1978 following the Watergate scandal and lawsuits filed by the Socialist Workers Party and others that revealed widespread spying and disruption against unionists, Black rights fighters and other political activists by the FBI and other government spy outfits. (See *Militant* 25, 50 and 75 years ago column on page 5.) It was promoted by liberals and civil libertarians as a way to restrain "illegal" spying, opening the door to ongoing use of FBI snoops within a new legal framework.

Under FISA, the government set up secret courts empowered to approve wiretaps and search warrants requested by spy agencies. In its first 26 years, FISA courts turned down only five of the 19,000 requests from federal cops, according to the *Times*.

In long, complex circumlocution, the Supreme Court argued that plaintiffs can't prove anything unconstitutional is being done because it is being done in complete secrecy.

Even if plaintiffs could somehow prove that they are personally harmed by specific instances of secret spying, there is no way they can know if any of that spying is authorized through FISA or some other channel. "The Government has numerous other methods of conducting surveillance, none of which is challenged here," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the majority opinion.

Meanwhile, senators were coming up with a way to deal with contention around the administration's legal rationalizations for targeting U.S. citizens for assassination.

Following congressional hearings on John Brennan, President Barack Obama's nominee for CIA director, Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Senate Judiciary chairman Pat Leahy (D-Vt.), and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) called for setting up a new special court—modeled after the secret FISA courts—to review administration kill list proposals.

Quebec steelworkers score victory after 5-month fight

BY JOHN STEELE

After five months on the picket line, locked-out steelworkers in Boucherville, Quebec, southeast of Montreal, voted Feb. 7 by 92 percent to return to work with a solid victory under their belts. The 94 workers are members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

The workers, without a contract since April 1, 2012, were locked out Sept. 10 by Acier Leroux, a division of multinational Russel Metals. During the lockout CSN members repeatedly voted down company concession demands.

"We won everything that we wanted," local union President Lucien Dallaire said in a phone interview. He works as a shunter, driving trailers and other vehicles in and out of the plant. The signed contract did not include previous company clauses to contract out many union jobs.

After four months without progress in negotiations, the company was functioning at 60 to 65 percent capacity with scab labor, said Dallaire. In December and January, workers carried out informational picket lines at many Acier Leroux clients in the region. "Clients didn't want to be mixed up in this, and phoned to cancel further orders," Dallaire said. "Production in the plant then dropped to 30 percent."

After the contract was adopted, the company paid two union members to call and inform clients the conflict was over so that orders would resume, the union president pointed out.

Health and safety measures were strengthened in the final contract and workers' share of health insurance costs were lowered to 20 percent from previous offers of 50 percent. Wages will increase by 12 percent over the life of the four-year pact.

After Christmas all but 10 workers were on the picket line, Dallaire said. Of the others, "five were working elsewhere and five were injured. We didn't give them an inch."

Amélie Lanteigne and Katy LeRougetel contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

IOWA

Des Moines

Women and Revolution. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council at-large. Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Mali Today: Unfolding War, Growing Class Conflicts. Burkina Faso, 1983-87: Working People Led Revolution, Set Example. Fri., March 22, 7 p.m. Donation: $5 waged, $2 unwaged. *4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.*

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own. Speaker: Caroline Bellamy, Communist League, Pathfinder Press volunteer at Havana book fair in February. Sat., March 23, 4 p.m. Donation: £2.50. *Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.*

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

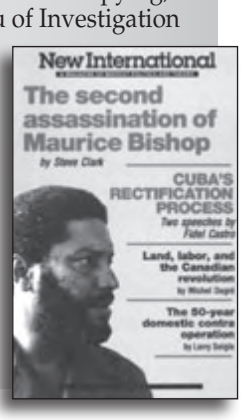
U.S. Premiere: The Mariposas of Cuba. An exhibit of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban 5 political prisoners incarcerated in the U.S. Fri., March 29, 7 p.m. Donation: $10-$20. *The Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics, 518 Valencia St. Sponsored by The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5.*

FBI ON TRIAL *Edited by Margaret Jayko*

Documents from the 15-year legal battle by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance against decades of spying, harassment and disruption by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the victory won in 1988. **—$18.95**

NEW INTERNATIONAL no. 6

Includes "The 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation" by Larry Seigle, recording five decades of government spying and disruption starting with raids against Teamster militants in the Midwest in 1939. **—$16**



Pathfinderpress.com

Locked-out sugar workers in North Dakota get jobless pay

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

MINNEAPOLIS—After 19 months hundreds of locked-out sugar workers in North Dakota will finally get some unemployment relief from the state government.

When American Crystal Sugar locked out some 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union at its facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa, those working at the company's two plants in North Dakota were denied jobless compensation by the state job service.

The pretext for the denial was an interpretation of a 1981 law that said employees who are not working "due to a strike, sympathy strike, or work stoppage dispute of any kind which exists because of a labor dispute" would not be eligible for unemployment compensation. The American Crystal case was the first time the state job service sought to withhold benefits to locked-out workers on that basis.

Initially upheld in a district court decision, the benefits' denial was overturned 3-2 by the state Supreme Court Feb. 26. More than 400 workers were locked out in North Dakota. It's unclear how many will receive benefits of up to $10,400 at this point.

"Finally, after 19 months of being locked out, we won a little piece of justice," Gayln Olson, president of BCTGM Local 372G, said in a phone interview.

"When the call came in there was elation in the Hillsboro union hall," said Terry Holm, who recently retired from the American Crystal Sugar plant in Hillsboro, N.D. "Right away we got on the phones letting people know what happened."

"Spirits were higher than they've been in a long time," said Wayne Netterlund, who recently retired from the plant in Drayton, N.D., after 36 years. "The overall support is not as high as a year ago when we were carrying out more activity and fewer of us had gotten other jobs."

The sugar workers have four times rejected a company contract offer that included major concessions in health care, seniority rights and contracting work outside the union.

Like the rest of the 1,300 workers, those in North Dakota have received a $100 weekly stipend from the union. To supplement this, many in North Dakota have relied on union-organized collections of food and funds to cover basic necessities. As the lockout dragged on, hundreds of workers found other jobs, or were pressed into early retirement.

The court decision will not affect the company's stance on contract negotiation with the union, company spokesperson Brian Ingulsrud told the Forum News Service Feb. 27. "We've moved on with normal business operations with new employees."

Meanwhile, two replacement workers were burned Jan. 29 while working at the company's plant in East Grand Forks, Minn.

One of these workers was seriously injured. While his name has not been released, the press has reported he was from Chicago and employed by Strom Engineering, a scab-herding agency contracted by American Crystal since the beginning of the lockout. He was in "critical but stable" condition, *Agweek* reported Feb. 7.

Over the course of the lockout there has been a series of fires and other safety incidents, which union officials have blamed on the bosses' drive for production without an experienced workforce.

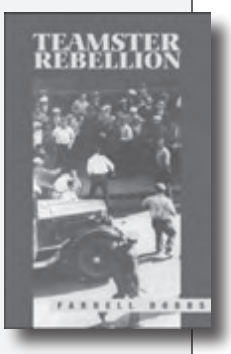
"This took a week to hit the news," Randy Anderson, a sugar worker locked-out in Drayton, told the *Militant*.

Tom Fiske contributed to this article.

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.**—$19**



PathfinderPress.com

Australia rally protests cop beatings of gays

Militant/Ron Poulsen

SYDNEY—More than 1,000 people joined a rally here March 8 to protest police brutality and harassment against participants in the annual gay Mardi Gras parade a week earlier. Demonstrators marched to the Surry Hills police station. After the Mardi Gras parade March 2, Jamie Jackson, 18, and Bryn Hutchinson, 32, a gay rights activist, were beaten and arrested by cops. A number of other participants were publicly stripped-searched by police. The rally called for dropping charges against Jackson and Hutchinson for allegedly assaulting police officers, and for the cops involved to be charged.

—LINDA HARRIS

Dockworkers in Wash. fight union busting

Continued from front page

and the Teamsters are with you all the way," Tony Andrews, president of Teamsters Joint Council 37, told the crowd.

"The only way to beat United Grain is to stay united," Robert McEllrath, international president of the ILWU, said at the rally. "We came up with an agreement with Cargill and will hand it to United Grain in an effort to get them to negotiate with us."

An agreement with four companies covered by the Pacific Northwest Grain Handler's Agreement expired Sept. 29. Only TEMCO LLC, a joint venture of Cargill and CHS Inc., has signed an agreement with the union.

"United Grain wants to see work rule changes," United Grain spokesman Pat McCormick said in a March 11 phone interview, including allowing fewer employees to load ships, flexibility to bring workers from the elevator side to load ships, the right to use nonunion employees, no work stoppages during the length of the contract and permitting 12-hour shifts.

After participants marched a few blocks to United Grain's corporate headquarters, McEllrath tried to speak with the company and present the Cargill contract as an example of what United Grain should sign.

"They wouldn't meet with us because they said we had too many people here," McEllrath said. The crowd responded with chants, "Let them in! ILWU!" After a second attempt, McEllrath told the crowd that a company representative had accepted a copy of the contract.

Participants then marched to Local 4 headquarters where they had a barbecue lunch.

A number of members of ILWU Local 21 in Longview attended the rally and picnic. In 2011-2012 Local 21 waged an eight-month battle that forced EGT Development to hire ILWU workers.

"It's awesome to see so many people here," Shelly Porter, a member of Local 21, told the *Militant*. "Local 4 was with us in our fight and we're here for them."

"Over 50 of our members came down for the rally. We want to make sure Local 4 knows we'll be there for them, including doing picket duty if they want," said Kyle Mackey, secretary-treasurer of Local 21.

Dennis Young flew from Juneau, Alaska, with another member of the ILWU Alaska Longshore Division. "This is an ongoing struggle to protect the jurisdiction of the ILWU and we think solidarity is important," he said.

"We're not staffing tugs or bringing barges to the United Grain terminal until this is settled," a member of the Inlandboatmen's Union, who asked that his name not be used, told the *Militant*. The union's president, Alan Cote, spoke at the rally.

"The war on workers is heating up. We need to show solidarity to oppose the divide and conquer strategy of the bosses," said Judith Lienhard, a member of the Oregon Nurses Association from Portland, Ore.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

March 25, 1988

NEW YORK—An unprecedented victory for constitutional rights was registered at a federal court house here.

"The government's decision to throw in the towel in the Socialist Workers Party case brings this 15-year fight to a successful conclusion," Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, told a news conference.

Attorney General Edwin Meese decided to withdraw a Justice Department appeal of the August 1986 ruling of U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa that declared it illegal for the FBI and other police outfits to use informers, disruption programs, or break-ins against political organizations and activists. Meese was joined in this action by 11 other heads of government agencies.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 25, 1963

PARIS—France's coal miners have been out on strike since March 1. Other strikes have likewise been called, the iron miners in the east, the natural gas workers of Lacq.

The miners' struggle, by far the most important, has aroused strong feelings of solidarity. These manifestations of support were followed by 15-minutes solidarity stoppages throughout France. The gas and electric workers stopped work for two hours in token of their sympathy. Expressions of solidarity are now spreading across the entire continent of Europe.

The point of departure for the miners' movement was the demand to bring their wages back to the level lost through inflation.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

March 26, 1938

The mounting series of "incidents" in Europe, set in train by Hitler's seizure of Austria, brings home to every worker the imminence of the war peril. Decaying capitalism is preparing to destroy humanity in a new world war.

The workers have nothing to gain and everything to lose by aligning themselves with the war camps of "democratic" capitalism. What real freedom do the workers in the "democratic" countries have when their wages are slashed below the subsistence level, when they are out of work, starving and homeless?

For the workers the enemy is in their own country—not across the frontier. For the workers of America, too, the enemy is right here. It is the capitalist class.

‘To be a revolutionary doctor, you must make revolution’

Below is an excerpt from Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for March. It’s taken from a speech Guevara gave to a meeting of medical students in Havana, Aug. 19, 1960.* *Copyright © 2000 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY CHE GUEVARA

Almost everyone knows that a number of years ago I started out my career to be a doctor. And when I started, when I began to study medicine, the majority of the concepts I hold today as a revolutionary were absent from the storehouse of my ideals.

I wanted to succeed, as everybody wants to succeed. I dreamed of being a famous researcher. I dreamed of working tirelessly to achieve something that could really be put at the disposal of humanity, but that would be a personal triumph at the same time. I was, as we all are, a child of my environment.

Through special circumstances and perhaps also because of my character, after receiving my degree I began to travel through Latin America and got to know it intimately. Except for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, I have visited—to one degree or another—all the countries of Latin America. Given how I traveled, first as a student and afterward as a doctor, I began to come into close contact with poverty, with hunger, with disease, with the inability to cure a child due to lack of resources, with the numbness that hunger and unrelenting punishment cause until a point is reached where a parent losing a child becomes an accident of no importance, as is often the case among those classes in our Latin American homeland who have been dealt the heaviest blows. And I began to see there was something that seemed to me almost as important as being a famous researcher or making a substantial contribution to medical science: it was helping those people.

Granma

Che Guevara speaks to medical students and health workers in Havana, Aug. 19, 1960.

But I continued to be, as all of us always are, a child of my environment, and I wanted to help people through my personal efforts. I had already traveled a lot—I was then in Guatemala, the Guatemala of Arbenz—and I had begun to make some notes to guide the conduct of a revolutionary doctor. I began to look into what was needed for me to be a revolutionary doctor. …

Then I realized a fundamental thing: to be a revolutionary doctor, or to be a revolutionary, there must first be a revolution. The isolated effort, the individual effort, the purity of ideals, the desire to sacrifice an entire lifetime to the noblest of ideals—all that is for naught if the effort is made alone, solitary, in some corner of Latin America, fighting against hostile governments and social conditions that permit no progress. A revolution needs what we have in Cuba: an entire people who are mobilized, who have learned the use of arms and the practice of unity in combat, who know what a weapon is worth and what the people’s unity is worth.

Then we get to the heart of the problem that today lies ahead of us. We already have the right and even the obligation to be, before anything else, a revolutionary doctor, that is, a person who puts the technical knowledge of his profession at the service of the revolution and of the people. Then we come back to the earlier questions: How does one do a job of social welfare effectively? How does one reconcile individual effort with the needs of society?

Once again we have to recall what each of our lives was like prior to the revolution—what each of us did and thought, as a doctor or in any other public health function. We must do so with profound critical enthusiasm. And we will conclude that almost everything we thought and felt in that past epoch should be filed away, and we should create a new type of human being. If each one of us is his own architect in doing so, then creating that new type of human being—who will be the representative of the new Cuba—will be much easier.

It is good for you—those present here, residents of Havana—to absorb this idea: that in Cuba a new type of human being is coming into existence, one that cannot be entirely appreciated in the capital, but that can be seen in every corner of the country. Those of you who went to the Sierra Maestra on July 26 must have seen two absolutely unheard-of things: an army with picks and shovels, one that takes such pride in marching in the patriotic celebrations in Oriente province with its picks and shovels ready, side by side with the militia compañeros marching with their rifles. [*Applause*] But you must also have seen something much more important: You must have seen some children who by their physical stature appear eight or nine years old, but who are nevertheless almost all thirteen or fourteen. They are the most authentic children of the Sierra Maestra, the most authentic children of hunger and poverty in all its forms. They are the creatures of malnutrition.

In this small Cuba, with four or five television channels, with hundreds of radio stations, despite all the advances of modern science, when those children for the first time came to school at night and saw electric lights, they exclaimed that the stars were very low that night. Those children, whom some of you would have seen, have now been brought together in schools where they are learning everything from the ABCs right up to a trade, right up to the very difficult science of being a revolutionary.

These are the new types of human beings emerging in Cuba. They are being born in isolated places, in remote points in the Sierra Maestra and also in the cooperatives and workplaces.

All that has a lot to do with the topic of our talk today: the integration of the doctor or any other medical worker into the revolutionary movement. Because the revolution’s tasks—of training and nourishing the children, educating the army, distributing the lands of the absentee landlords among those who sweated every day on that same land without reaping its fruit—those are the greatest works of social medicine that Cuba has achieved.

March BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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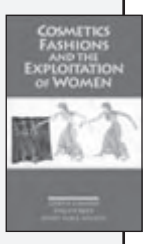
Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women



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EDITORIAL

Lift sanctions! Korea is one!

Working people worldwide should oppose all sanctions against North Korea imposed by the U.N. Security Council at Washington's behest; demand an end to U.S. military exercises, provocations and threats; and call for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and materiel from the Korean Peninsula. This above all would lay the basis for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which is in the interest of all working people.

Washington's unremitting aggression abroad is being carried out by the same propertied rulers waging a war on the living standards, unions and rights of working people at home.

Like the mounting sanctions against Iran, the economic squeeze against North Korea is being conducted under the false rubric of "nuclear nonproliferation." Behind this selective, arbitrary and hypocritical pretext is the intention to inflict hardship on the working people of both countries and trample on their sovereignty. The U.S. rulers will never forgive the Korean people for dealing Washington its first military defeat, as they will never forget the mass popular revolution of 1979 that overthrew the U.S.-backed monarchy in Iran.

The U.S. government forcibly divided the Korean nation as it had just thrown off the half-century yoke of Japanese colonial domination. It launched its murderous war under cover of the blue U.N. flag, killing some 4 million Koreans, after working people in the North had overturned capitalist property relations. When defeated, Washington refused to sign a peace treaty with North Korea and remains officially at war to this day.

Washington has backed successive capitalist-landlord tyrannies in the South. Today it maintains some 28,500 troops on Korean soil, as well as nuclear arms and delivery systems throughout the Pacific, surrounding Korea.

The partition of Korea remains the only unresolved national division imposed by Washington and its imperialist allies coming out of World War II. The desire for reunification by Korea's working people in the North and South deserves the support of workers and farmers throughout the world.

End all sanctions and threats against North Korea and Iran! Korea is one!

US gov't presses sanctions on N Korea

Continued from front page

actions, credit, and overseas travel; call for stiffer interdiction of its ships and aircraft; and expand the list of banned imports.

The resolution was co-drafted by the U.S. government and the People's Republic of China, which borders the DPRK to the north and is its main trading partner.

The pretext was Pyongyang's third nuclear detonation test, conducted Feb. 12. Last December the DPRK launched a long-range rocket bearing a satellite into orbit, something only a handful of nations have accomplished. Washington and the Security Council it bullies and directs responded with a Jan. 22 resolution imposing further sanctions on North Korean banks, companies, organizations and individuals. The North Korean nuclear test was conducted in response to that resolution, Pyongyang says.

There have been thousands of nuclear tests and satellite launches, mostly by Washington, since the U.N. was founded in 1945, North Korea's Foreign Ministry pointed out, calling the sanctions an "infringement on the DPRK's sovereignty." A week after the U.N. resolution the South Korean government launched its first satellite without a peep from Washington.

History of trampling on Korean sovereignty

Korean sovereignty has been trampled underfoot by imperialism for more than a century. In the wake of World War II, after 50 years of Japanese colonial rule and pillage of Korea, Washington forcibly partitioned the country at the 38th parallel. The South was placed under direct U.S. military rule until rigged elections conducted under U.N. cover in 1948 consolidated the subservient dictatorship of Syngman Rhee.

After the outbreak of military conflict between the North and South in 1950, Washington engineered a U.N. vote as a cloak to launch a bloody war involving almost 6 million U.S. troops. Over three years of war, U.S. forces dropped 635,000 tons of bombs, leveling nearly every building in the North and devastating parts of the South—more tonnage than in the entire Pacific theater during World War II. The U.S. administration of Harry Truman threatened to use nuclear weapons several times. Sine 4 million Koreans were killed, the vast majority civilians.

Despite the scope of Washington's destruction, the Korean people dealt U.S. imperialism its first military defeat, forcing a cease-fire in July 1953. To this day, however, the U.S. rulers refuse to sign a peace treaty and remain officially at war with the DPRK. Washington maintains some 28,500 troops in Korea. The division at the 38th parallel is the only unresolved partition of a country, imposed against the will of its people, coming out of World War II.

U.S. military maneuvers target DPRK

Between March 1 and April 30, U.S. and South Korean forces are engaged in Foal Eagle, a joint military maneuver involving some 10,000 U.S. troops, most not based in Korea, and as many as 200,000 South Korean soldiers. Another joint maneuver, Key Resolve, is taking place simultaneously March 11-21, involving some 10,000 South Korean and 3,500 U.S. troops.

Shortly before the maneuvers began, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that Washington and Seoul were weighing deployment of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and B-52 nuclear-capable bombers this year. The South Korean paper *The Hankyoreh* reported March 11 that the exercises include B-52 bombers, F-22 stealth fighters and two Aegis nuclear-capable destroyers.

As part of its "Asia pivot" directed at China and North Korea, Washington has redeployed 14 Trident nuclear submarines, which carry some 1,000 nuclear warheads, more than half such weapons in the U.S. arsenal. Nine now ply the Pacific and five the Atlantic, a shift from seven and seven, according to a Jan. 14 Congressional Research Service report. "The shift allows the United States to improve its coverage of targets in China and North Korea," the report said.

The North Korean government responded to the most recent sanctions and military maneuvers by declaring the 1953 cease-fire agreement void and cutting off some direct military lines of communication with U.N. and South Korean forces. At the same time, the DPRK continues to operate and maintain communication at the Kaesong industrial complex, a joint enterprise in the North involving substantial South Korean capital.

The DPRK has also reiterated its commitment to fight for Korea's national reunification.

"Looking back on history, the Korean people have neither shot a single arrow nor thrown a single stone at U.S. soil," said a March 5 DPRK statement.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Declining wages

Continued from front page

leading way government statistics are presented, the official jobless rate over the last few years has declined at the same time as the proportion of the population with a job has shrunk.

"February was the 34th consecutive month that saw more unemployed workers stop looking for a job than find one," reported the *Wall Street Journal*. Every month government statisticians remove these "discouraged" workers from the official labor force used to figure the unemployment rate. So instead of making the rate higher, it declines. Some 296,000 workers "dropped out" of the workforce in February—60,000 more than the number of jobs created. Today there are 6.8 million workers not considered part of the workforce whom the Labor Department says are "persons who currently want a job."

A more accurate way of gauging the stagnant job levels is the employment to population ratio—a straight percentage of the total population that is employed. In February it was 58.6 percent, the same as a year ago and a decline from 63 percent in 2007.

Many of the jobs added in February are for part-time workers. According to a survey of U.S. households, writes Michael Roberts on his blog on WordPress.com, February's job increase in part-time, low-wage jobs was up 446,000, while full-time jobs declined 276,000. The Labor Department reports there are now 8 million workers who want to work full time, but can only find part-time jobs. For the purposes of the unemployment rate, they are simply considered "employed." About 20 percent of all employees in the U.S. are working part time.

Long-term unemployment is higher today than it was three and a half years ago, rising another 90,000 last month. On the average, workers officially unemployed are out of a job for more than eight months, and more than a quarter have been looking for at least a year.

"As bad as the current job recovery has been—and it's by far the weakest since World War II," stated *Investor's Business Daily*, "the recovery in wages has been far worse." Five years later real wages remain 2.2 percent below its level at the end of 2007, the official start of the recession.

In previous recessions since World War II, wage declines reached their prerecession level in a shorter time span. By way of comparison, the real wage decline during the 2001 recession was over in two-and-a-half years. Wages reached 8 percent above their prior peak by 2006.

Corporate profits have been rising at record rates. As a percentage of national income, corporate profits were 14.2 percent in the third-quarter of 2012, the largest amount since 1950. The portion of income that went to workers was 61.7 percent, near its lowest point for half a century.

After 60 months, total wages remain well below pre-recession levels. Millions of workers feel the squeeze.

‘Women have taken part in every ba

Meetings in Havana and Santiago discuss books that help new g

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND RÓGER CALERO

SANTIAGO DE CUBA—“This book is an inspiration,” said Surina Acosta Brooks, as she turned to two dozen high school students, mostly young women, in the audience of more than 100. Studying the lessons of the Cuban Revolution the book records is important, she said, “because you, the young women of today, are inheritors” of this history “and it will be your turn to carry forward along that road.

“I’m certain that in the future your stories will be recorded too, maybe even in books like we’re presenting today.”

Acosta, general secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) in Santiago de Cuba province, was referring to *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press.

In a Feb. 28 event sponsored by the FMC, the book was presented here along with a new companion title, *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*. Both are published in English and Spanish.

A few days earlier in Havana, 70 people participated in a similar book presentation sponsored by the FMC.

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution contains interviews with Vilma Espín, a central leader of the July 26 Movement and a Rebel Army combatant in the struggle that brought down the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959; Asela de los Santos, a lifelong comrade-in-arms of Espín with an exemplary record of her own; and Yolanda Ferrer, who served 22 years as general secretary of the FMC, of which Espín was the central leader for some five decades.

The book was first launched at the 2012 Havana book fair. *The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution* is a booklet bringing together the talks given by the four panelists at the 2012 meeting: de los Santos, FMC Second Secretary Arelys Santana, Union of Young Communists leader Leira Sánchez, and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the books and a member of the Socialist Workers Party’s National Committee.

Militant photos/Róger Calero

Left: **Panelists at Feb. 22 meeting in Havana, sponsored by Federation of Cuban Women, presenting two books on women and Cuban Revolution: (from left) Isabel Moya, director FMC publishing house; Mary-Alice Waters, books’ editor; Yanira Kúper, FMC director of international relations. From outset of Cuba’s revolutionary struggle, said Kúper, its leaders understood that fighting women’s oppression “is indissolubly linked to the struggle of the entire people for liberation.”** ***Bottom:*** **Some of 40 high school students in audience.**

The meeting here was held at Espín’s family home in central Santiago. The house served as headquarters of the underground July 26 Movement during a crucial stage of the revolutionary struggle in the 1950s. It is now a community center and museum.

In the audience were a dozen veterans of the Santiago underground and Rebel Army who had worked with Espín and de los Santos, along with numerous FMC cadres and representatives of other mass organizations.

“We want to thank you for this presentation,” said museum director Margiola Sánchez, turning to Waters. After learning about the book launch last year in Havana, residents of Santiago kept hearing it might be repeated here, Sánchez said with a smile. “And finally we have it in Santiago de Cuba. And where? Here at Vilma’s home!”

‘Revolutions are work of millions’

Waters noted that the interviews with Espín and de los Santos, in retracing the many years of political work by Cuba’s revolutionary movement “show us that revolutions are the work of millions, prepared over decades.”

In concrete detail, she said, they recount how Rebel Army combatants and landless farmers and agricultural workers—fighting shoulder to shoulder in the liberated territory of the Rebel Army’s Second Front, a vast area in eastern Cuba—initiated a profound social revolution that transformed them all.

A decisive factor in the unprecedented involvement of women in the day-to-day leadership of the Cuban Revolution, Waters said, “was the political clarity and unwavering line of the leadership of Fidel Castro above all, but not only Fidel.”

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution, she concluded, is a “powerful weapon in our battle to help working people in the U.S. and elsewhere understand what a socialist revolution is, and why it is not only necessary—now more than ever—but possible.”

Acosta shared the platform with Waters. In addition to her leadership responsibilities in the FMC, she is a deputy in Cuba’s National Assembly, and just completed a five-year term on the country’s highest state body, the 31-member Council of State. Trained as a livestock specialist, Acosta worked for a number of years on a cattle-raising cooperative.

She thanked Pathfinder for producing “something new and impressive.” The book, Acosta said, shows how women have been “a major political force in building a socialist revolution,” recounting women’s role in “defense, in

Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Surina Acosta, FMC general secretary in Santiago de Cuba province, speaking at Feb. 28 event. The books presented there, Acosta said, show how women have been “a major political force in building a socialist revolution” in Cuba.

Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution

Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution is the story of the Cuban Revolution and the unprecedented integration of women into the ranks and leadership of that struggle from the start. **$20**

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Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution contains talks about *The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* at the 2012 Havana International Book Fair by a panel of speakers from Cuba and the U.S. **$7**

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ttle in Cuba's revolutionary history'

generations of workers understand what a socialist revolution is

the literacy campaign, in creating child care centers, in training for nontraditional jobs, in their active participation in leadership."

Acosta quoted Ferrer's remark that from the first day of the revolution, as women—and men—went through these experiences, "what it meant to be female began to change" and "prejudice began to lose ground."

During the discussion period, Roxana Robert, 15, took the floor. She said she and other students are members of the Vilma Espín Interest Circle, or club. They volunteer at the museum and study the history Espín was part of. After the meeting, the FMC organized to give each of the young women a copy of *The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*.

Several members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution talked about experiences they had in working with Espín and de los Santos in the Santiago underground.

After the event, Acosta invited Waters and the other international participants to come back to Santiago soon, so the FMC can take them to meet and share experiences with community groups in some of the city's working-class neighborhoods, which is a regular part of the organization's political work.

The meeting was covered by Santiago radio and newspapers and reported on the national TV news.

Book presentation in Havana

The previous week, the FMC national leadership sponsored a Feb. 22 presentation of the same two titles in Havana at the federation's "Fe del Valle" leadership training school. The center is named after one of the FMC's founding cadres, who was killed in a counterrevolutionary firebombing of a Havana department store in 1961. The meeting was one of the many book launches held as part of the February 14-24 Havana International Book Fair.

Joining Waters on the platform were Yanira Kúper, the FMC's director of international relations, and Isabel Moya, director of the FMC's publishing house. Present in the front row was Teresa Amarelle Boué, the organization's general secretary. Among the 70 men and women attending the event were some 40 female high school students and many provincial leaders of the FMC.

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution, Kúper said, shows how "Cuban women have been present in every battle, at every moment" in Cuba's revolutionary history, "from the armed

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Students at Cuban medical school exchange views with socialist workers from US, UK, Canada, Australia

Militant/Tom Baumann

HAVANA—Some 70 students at the Latin American School of Medicine (known here by its Spanish initials, ELAM) participated Feb. 26 in an exchange—pictured above—with socialist workers from the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The visit was organized by Cuba's Union of Young Communists (UJC). The pre-med and first-year students at the meeting heard about several books recently published by Pathfinder Press. The socialists described how working people, especially those engaged in struggles in the United States and other countries against the bosses' drive to increase their profits and competitive position, are more open to the example of the Cuban Revolution than ever before. Students at ELAM are provided with fully funded six-year scholarships. The youth come from across the Americas, including the U.S., as well as from Africa, Asia and the Pacific. More than 15,000 students from some 120 different countries are enrolled in this medical program in Cuba.

—RÓGER CALERO AND TOM BAUMANN

NY forum: Cuban Revolution is example for working people

Continued from front page

in Manhattan, focused on two recent titles: *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and a companion booklet, *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*, both published by Pathfinder Press. The presentations in Havana and the eastern Cuban city of Santiago were sponsored by the Federation of Cuban Women (see facing page).

Maritzel González, an international spokesperson of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), was a featured speaker. She is currently in New York representing the FMC at sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The other panelists were Gail Walker, co-executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/ Pastors for Peace, and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the books and a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. The program was chaired by Koppel, who along with Róger Calero was responsible for preparing Spanish editions of both titles.

Participants in meeting

Koppel introduced several special guests. Among them were Yamila González Ferrer and Félix Jardines of the National Union of Cuban Jurists who, along with González, are participating in the work of the UN commission; Ariel Hernández Hernández, first secretary of the Cuban Mission to the U.N.; and members of the Riverside Church Mission and Social Justice Ministry's South Africa Support Group, which facilitated plans for the forum.

Koppel also welcomed Irma Burgos, a picket captain in the hard-fought monthlong strike this year by 8,800 New York school bus drivers fighting for job protection and union rights.

The audience included workers who heard about the forum from *Militant* distributors going door to door in their neighborhoods; activists from the July 26 Coalition, a Cuba solidarity organization; and supporters of IFCO.

Militant/Warren Simons

Participants in N.Y. forum presenting books on Cuba's socialist revolution and fight for women's emancipation.

"I bring greetings to all of you from the Federation of Cuban Women, its leadership, and from all Cuban women," said Maritzel González in her remarks.

"We must remember that before the Jan. 1, 1959, revolutionary victory, conditions in Cuba were intolerable for the big majority. Unemployment, illiteracy, lack of medical care, absence of public services, corruption and thievery by politicians—those were the norm," she said.

No preconceptions

In *The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*, the FMC leader said, "what life was like in our country, especially in Santiago de Cuba and Oriente province, is very well described. The population—students, young people, men and women—passed through moments of terror, of fear and insecurity, caused by the government of dictator Fulgencio Batista. And the book recounts the work of the underground struggle in that part of Cuba."

The interviews with revolutionary leader and FMC founding President Vilma Espín describe how "when the FMC was born, there were no preconceived structures, but rather a desire by women to participate in building a better society for all," González said. The FMC emerged from "the revolutionary struggle of the Rebel Army against the dictatorship, a struggle that transformed how both men and women thought about women's place in society."

Militant/Warren Simons

Forum speakers (from left): Maritzel González, Federation of Cuban Women leader; Gail Walker, co-executive director, IFCO/Pastors for Peace; Mary-Alice Waters, editor and Socialist Workers Party leader.

Sense of dignity, confidence

"This book is a real page-turner," Gail Walker told the audience. "You try to do other things, but you can't put it down. It's thrilling and important, a historic contribution to understanding the role of women in the Cuban Revolution.

"The revolution was a challenge to ideas of women's traditional role. It raised women's sense of dignity and self-confidence," Walker said.

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Socialists from US, UK, Canada talk with workers at Cuban plant

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND ELLIE GARCÍA

HAVANA—"How difficult are the conditions in which you carry out political work in the United States? Do you face repression from the government?" asked Gregorio Nestre, a production line worker at the Prodal food-processing plant here.

Together with 70 other workers, Nestre had just heard remarks by three socialists from the U.S., Mary-Alice Waters, Róger Calero and Martín Koppel.

Along with socialist workers and young socialists from Canada and the United Kingdom—all of them volunteers at the Pathfinder Press stand at the Havana International Book Fair—they had been invited to the plant by the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba to exchange experiences and discuss some of the Pathfinder books featured at the fair.

Plant director Marisel Torres welcomed the guests Feb. 25, recalling that in May 2001 *Militant* reporters had attended a workers assembly at the factory. The plant is in Regla, an industrial district on the east side of Havana Bay. The more than 1,000 workers produce seafood and poultry products, some for export and the rest for consumption in Cuba, including fish croquettes that are very popular here. Nearly half the workers are women and a high percentage are young.

They listened with interest as Waters replied to Nestre's question, describing the wide-ranging discussions Socialist Workers Party members have with fellow workers, all of whom face the spreading capitalist economic contraction and its social consequences. Many were surprised by the considerable space that exists in the U.S. to carry out communist political activity.

Prodal workers responded to questions from their guests, as well. The visitors, several of whom had worked in meatpacking and food-processing factories themselves, wanted to learn how job conditions compared to those they have faced in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. One fact above all left an impression. When asked how many work-related accidents production workers had suffered in the last year, they could think of only two, one of which was a traffic accident on the way to work!

Calero, Koppel and Waters opened the exchange at Prodal by introducing two recent Pathfinder books: *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own*, and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. They described the interest in these books among fellow workers in the U.S. who are engaged in struggles to defend our interests against assaults by the employers and their government.

Workers asked about the fight to free the five Cuban revolutionaries framed and imprisoned by the U.S. government. "Fighting for the freedom of our five Cuban comrades is also fighting for ourselves," Waters said. The five, she noted, are on the front lines of the class struggle in the U.S., setting an example of dignity and integrity that working people respect and identify with as they learn about them.

Following the exchange, informal discussion continued for half an hour as workers bought copies of the featured titles and other books, as well as issues of the *Militant*. A number of Pathfinder titles were donated to the plant's library.

Militant photos: top, Jonathan Silberman; right, Martín Koppel

Workers at Prodal food-processing plant in Havana exchange views Feb. 25 with socialists from U.S., U.K., Canada. Many were surprised by space that exists to carry out communist political work in United States.

NY forum on women and Cuban Revolution

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"Women got medical training, they hid members of the July 26 Movement in their homes, they hid weapons under their hoop skirts—hiding in plain sight! I love that image." The stories, Walker said, reminded her of the leadership role of women in the struggle for Black rights in the U.S., including Harriet Tubman, an organizer of the Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape to freedom before the Civil War; civil rights fighters Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer in the 1950s and '60s; and Angela Davis, a Communist Party leader framed up and railroaded to prison in the 1970s.

Walker said that for the past 12 years IFCO has coordinated a scholarship program for young people from the U.S. to attend the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba, along with thousands of youth from dozens of countries who study medicine there.

A proletarian revolution

These books are about "the millions of men and women who made the Cuban Revolution and continue to lead and defend it today," said Mary-Alice Waters.

"The unswerving trajectory of the fight for women's emancipation, from the very outset up to today, is one of the cornerstones of the Cuban Revolution that defines its class character, its proletarian character. Through this lens we see the working class leading its allies to transform society from top to bottom."

Without the fight to eradicate women's oppression, Waters said, "no socialist revolution is possible. And as Frederick Engels explained, true equality between men and women cannot be achieved without a socialist revolution, that is, without abolishing the exploitation of both by capital."

In addition to the two books featured at the forum, Waters called attention to two other recent Pathfinder titles: *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free* and *Cuba and Angola: Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own*.

Workers and young people who are socialists distribute all these books not only out of solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, as important as that is, she said. We get these books out because "they help clarify life-or-death questions for working people today in the U.S. They help us see our own worth and capacities, as we face the battles increasingly imposed on us as the owners of capital try to solve *their* crisis the only way they can, by increasing exploitation of our labor and the riches of the earth.

"Working people know that the world contraction of production, trade and employment is having a profound impact on us," Waters concluded. "Discussions about what's happening and what to do about it are part of our daily lives."

As readers of the *Militant* go door to door in working-class neighborhoods talking with fellow workers about these conditions, they have found a growing openness and interest in the experiences of workers in other places, including the example of the Cuban Revolution. This changed consciousness among working people in the U.S. is also of great interest to those in Cuba fighting to defend and advance their revolution, Waters said.

After the talks, participants joined the discussion, asking how the Cuban Revolution has drawn women into the workforce and into jobs previously shut to them; what young people think about the revolution's accomplishments; and how Cuba's internationalist missions have been part of deepening and defending the revolution from the start.

Grenada and Nicaragua

"The Cuban Revolution had a big impact in Grenada," Shirelynn George, a health care worker from Brooklyn, told the audience. As a young woman, George was active in the 1979-83 revolution in Grenada.

"Before the Cuban doctors came," she said, "I knew of only one doctor in the fishing town where I lived, and few of us had even seen a dentist. Long live the Cuban Revolution and the struggle of Cuban women!"

"I lived in Nicaragua during the early years of the revolution in the 1980s," said Róger Calero. "We went door to door talking to other workers and peasants about the literacy campaign and organizing them into the popular militias. Talking to each other like this was an essential part of revolutionary work. It helped break down barriers and get rid of our fears and prejudices."

During informal discussion after the forum, Burgos, the picket captain in the school bus drivers' strike, remarked how much she had learned about the Cuban Revolution "and how, no matter what, they kept fighting for what they believed in. I can so relate to them, because of everything they've been through!"

It was on the drivers' picket lines in the Bronx that Burgos first met distributors of the *Militant* and picked up a subscription and a copy of *The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. She left the forum with *Teamster Rebellion*, the story of a victorious 1934 strike that helped launch the battle for industrial unions across the Midwest, as well as several other books.

Altogether forum participants bought 26 books about revolutionary politics and six *Militant* subscriptions.

Havana, Santiago meetings

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struggle to the revolutionary triumph to the subsequent battle to transform society and break old patterns."

Kúper pointed to the political clarity of Cuba's revolutionary leadership. She quoted a 1974 statement by Espín that the leadership understood from the start that the battle to end women's oppression "is indissolubly linked to the struggle of the entire people for liberation."

Moya said these and other Pathfinder titles "help bring the truth about Cuba to the United States" and worldwide, combating the capitalist media's lies about the revolution.

She highlighted the significance of the political battle led by Fidel Castro against the anti-woman prejudices held by many of the best Rebel Army combatants during the revolutionary war. Insisting that women could fight as well as men, Fidel organized the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in the Rebel Army and gave them weapons.

At the end of the event, the FMC leaders arranged—as they did in Santiago—to give a copy of *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution* to each of the 40 high school students. All the young women are either 14, or turning 14 this year, and planning to join the Federation of Cuban Women at a celebration of International Women's Day in March.